Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-12 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance due to the deletion of the term "transitioning from said open state to said closed state."

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable in view of Young et al. and Davies. Claim 1 is amended to include,

> ...a)   store for each of said keys respective indications of **whether or not each respective switch contact is detected as having been closed** responsive to respective depression of said keys, said respective indications maintained in storage **simultaneously,...**
>
> b)   transfer said indications after said indications have been stored and **simultaneously maintained**. (Emphasis added).

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at page 6, lines 9-14, page 6 line27 to page 7, line 12 and Figures 3(a)-3(d). With regard to claim 1, Young et al. and Davies do not disclose or suggest simultaneously maintaining storage of indications of whether or not respective switch contacts for each key are detected as having been closed.

The Examiner states that Young et al. fails to specifically teach storing indications of which of said contacts are detected as not closed. (Page 4, lines 3-5) The Examiner asserts, however, that Young et al. "suggests storing indications of which of said contacts are detected as not closed via the disclosure of RAM within the microprocessor and the ability to determine whether or not a correct key sequence is followed in the Mode <<Magic>>." (Page 4, lines 8-11).

Young et al. verifies a device ID code with a remote controller. A user counts the number of times an LED blinks in response to the user depressing one of the keys on the remote. The number of blinks counted after pressing each digit 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 key represents the 6 digit device ID code for the selected mode beginning with

the left most digit. (Col. 9, lines 8-14). For example, if the left most digit (the first digit) of the ID code is a 6, the LED will blink 6 times when the 6 key is pressed. Thus, as the user presses each key, **one at a time**, the blinking LED indicates that the pressed key was closed. Young et al. does not disclose that the indication for the pressed key is stored. Although Young et al. includes a standard RAM library, Young et al. does not disclose or suggest storing indications of all of the keys **simultaneously**. In fact, Young et al. does not disclose storing indications of whether a single key is closed.

Further, the blinking LED in Young et al. only indicates that a key is closed. That is, Young et al. does not store indications of a key being **not closed**, as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Examiner also asserts that Davies teaches storing indications of which of said contacts are detected as not closed. (Page 4, lines 5-8). In Davies, a counter is set to 0000 and includes 16 clock pulses before it is reset. (Col. 4, lines 27-33). During the first 8 pulses, a 7-bit word is stored in the shift register which indicates a single key being depressed. (Col. 4, lines 55-60). The first 4 bits identify the column of the key pressed on the remote. The last 3 bits identify the row of the key pressed on the remote. The register also stores a binary 1 in the 8th bit in response to a load pulse during the first 8 clock pulses. After the load pulse, the 8-bits stored in the register are clocked out. (Col. 6, lines 64-66). During the 9th to 16th clock pulses, the word is outputted and the clock resets. (Col. 4, line 67 to col. 5, line 4). Thus, Davies stores, at one time, an indication that only one key is pressed. Before the next indication is stored, the first indication is clocked out and outputted.

According to the exemplary embodiment of Applicant's invention, the key data memory 13 may store a series of bits 23A-23L, storing the opening and closing signals from keys 3A-3L. (Page 6, lines 9-14). A logic 1 indicates an indication that a key is closed and a logic 0 indicates that a key is open. As shown at figures 3(a)-3(d), the opening and closing signals of multiple keys may be stored simultaneously. Applicant's claimed feature of simultaneously maintaining storage of indications of whether or not respective switch contacts for each key are detected as having been closed is advantageous over the prior art because multiple indications may be stored and transferred together. Thus, multiple keys can be tested more quickly.

Because Young et al. and Davies do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Young et al. and Davies.

Claims 5 and 9-10, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 5 and 9-10 are also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 11, which include all of the features of their respective base claims, are submitted for allowance for the reasons described above with respect to their base claims.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable in view of Young et al., Davies and Duffield. Young et al. and Davies are described above. Duffield includes a controller, in a preprogrammed remote control unit, coupled to first and second pluralities of keys for determining which of the keys is depressed at any given time. That is, Duffield only determines whether a single key is depressed at a given time. Duffield does not disclose simultaneously maintaining storage of indications of whether or not respective switch contacts for each key are detected as having been closed.

Because Young et al., Davies and Duffield do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Young et al. and Davies. Claim 12, which include all of the features of claim 1, is submitted for allowance for the reasons described above with respect to claim1.
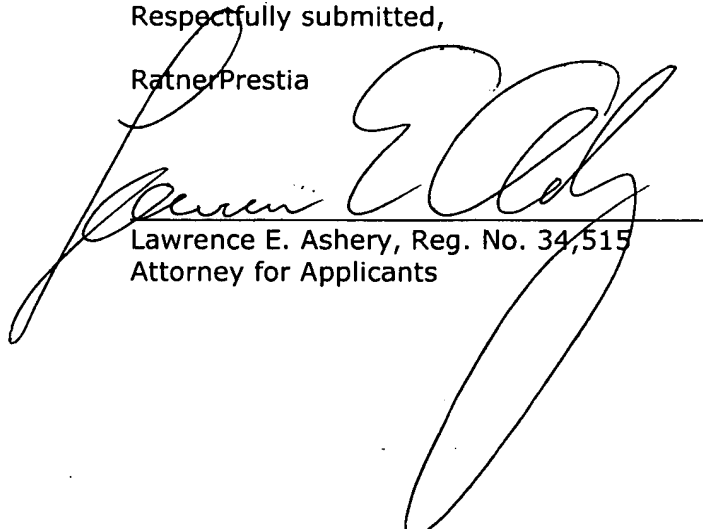
In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia

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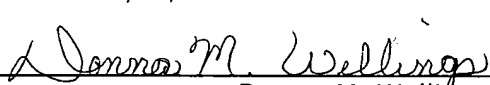Attorney for Applicants

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Donna M. Wellings

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